

Message Text

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12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DA ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF, AO

SUBJ: STATE PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON ANGOLA IN OPENING SOUTH
AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

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1. IN ADDRESS TO FORMAL OPENING OF CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, SOUTH AFRICA'S STATE PRESIDENT DIEDERICH'S INCLUDED FOLLOWING BRIEF COMMENTS ON ANGOLA.

2. QUOTE. THE SITUATION ANGOLA, HOWEVER, STANDS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THIS OTHERWISE ENCOURAGING PICTURE. THE BLATANT COMMUNIST STRATEGY OF DECIDING THE FATE OF AFRICA BY ARMED FORCE HAS NEVER BEEN MORE TRANSPARENT. WHILE HALF OF THE AFRICAN STATES ARE AWARE OF THE THREATENING DANGER, THE OAU ITSELF IS POWERLESS AS A RESULT OF ITS DIVISION ON THIS CRUCIAL AFRICAN PROBLEM. SOUTH AFRICA HAS RECOGNIZED THE INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA EVER SINCE 11 NOVEMBER 1975. LIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ABOUT HALF OF AFRICA, WE HAVE NOT YET RECOGNIZED ANY OF THE COMBATANT GROUPS AS THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT COUNTRY. SOUTH AFRICA HAS NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS IN ANGOLA. IT BELIEVES THAT THE PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY, LIKE OTHER PEOPLES, HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE AND TO CHOOSE THEIR GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES WITHOUT ARMED PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE. THE QUESTION OF ANGOLA SHOULD BE SOLVED ROUND THE CONFERENCE TABLE; ARMED FORCE CAN BRING NO LASTING SOLUTION.

OUR INVOLVEMENT IS THE SAME AS THAT OF THE FREE WORLD AND THE INTEREST OF OWAMBO IN THE CUNENE SCHEME, AS WELL AS THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF THE BORDERS AND TERRITORIES FOR WHICH SOUTH AFRICA IS RESPONSIBLE. WE HOPE AND TRUST THAT THERE WILL SOON BE AN ESTABLISHED AUTHORITY IN ANGOLA WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER IN THAT BORDER AND WATER SCHEME AREA AND WILL THUS MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO RELAX ITS OWN PROTECTIVE MEASURES.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE, HOWEVER, ALSO RESULTED IN LOSS OF LIVES TO SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHY WITH THOSE WHOSE LOVED ONES HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES OR ARE STILL IN CAPTIVITY. IT IS ESSENTIAL BEYOND DOUBT FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO HAVE THE MILITARY STRENGTH TO DEFEND ITSELF, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED THAT ITS DEFENSE FORCE AND ARMAMENTS ORGANIZATION ARE NOT BEING BUILT UP AS A THREAT TO OTHERS IN AFRICA. THE DETENTE POLICY THE GOVERNMENT IS PURSUING AND A STRONG DEFENSE CAPABILITY ARE COMPLEMENTARY AND NOT IRRECONCILABLE. UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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EM COMMENT: WHILE WE WOULD NOT WISH TO INFER TOO MUCH FROM SUCH GENERALIZED FORMAL STATEMENT, IT POSSIBLE THAT PHRASING OF REFERENCE TO "ESTABLISHED AUTHORITY IN ANGOLA WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER IN THAT BORDER AND WATER SCHEME AREA," GIVEN LATER EMPHASIS ON DETENTE, CAN BE READ AS A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ANY GROUP WHICH EMERGES IN CONTROL OF ANGOLA PROVIDED AN UNDERSTANDING CAN BE REACHED ON FUTURE

USE OF CALUQUE-CUNENE PROJECT.
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